

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0338

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 1821

EXDIS

CARACAS PASS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, AR, US

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE REACTION TO VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. COMMENTS BY BOTH PRESS AND GOA OFFICIALS SUBSEQUENT TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS' VISIT HAVE BEEN VERY FAVORABLE.

2. SINCE THE GOA HAS KEPT A TIGHT LID ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DISCUSSIONS, THE MEDIA, TAKING ITS CUE FROM THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF VIGNES, HAVE TAKEN THE LINE THAT IN ROGERS' VISIT US AND GOA WERE SURPRISINGLY CLOSE ON A NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES, AND THAT ROGERS' VISIT HAD PLAYED A POSITIVE ROLE IN BETTERING UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. FURTHER, VISIT WAS SEEN AS USEFUL PRELUDE TO THE VISIT OF SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FRUITFUL EFFORT TO PUT NEW DIALOGUE BACK ON TRACK.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WHO ATTENDED TALKS HAVE TOLD EMBASSY THE ROGERS' VISIT HAD BEEN "EXTREMELY PRODUCTIVE AND USEFUL" TO GOA. WE SUSPECT THIS REACTION ENGENDERED BY GOA DISCOVERING THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY HELD OPEN AND FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR THE CONFLICTIVE ISSUES OF CUBA AND TRA. ROGERS' COMMENTS WHICH INDICATED THAT US WAS MOVING MORE RAPIDLY THAN ARGENTINES EXPECTED ON QUESTION OF VENEZUELA AND

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ECUADOREAN EXCLUSION FROM THE TRA'S GSP'S PROVISION WAS

PARTICULARLY WELCOME NEWS. SINCE GOA HAD HAD TO THREAD NEEDLE
ON BOTH CUBA AND TRA, FACT US MOVING TO MUTE IF NOT REMOVE
LATTER ISSUE FROM INTER AMERICAN SPOTLIGHT BLOSTERS
GOA'S HOPES FOR ULTIMATELY HOSTING PRODUCTIVE MFM.

4. ON MAR 14 AMBASSADOR PULIT TOLD EMBOFF THAT FIRST REPORTS
FROM LA-ECOSOC MEETINGS INDICATE US POSITION RECEIVED VERY
FAVORABLE RESPONSE FROM LAS IN GENERAL AND MORE IMPORTANTLY
FROM VENEZUELA IN PARTICULAR. THUS, PULIT CONCLUDED THERE IS NOW
GOOD REASON FOR US AND GOA TO VIEW DEVELOPING SCENE WITH OPTIMISM.

5. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAVE PRESSED EMBASSY TO QUICKLY
BEGIN WORKING LEVEL TALKS TO PREPARE GROUND FOR MEETING BETWEEN
SECRETARY KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER VIGNES. TWO CONSIDERATIONS
IMPEL GOA TO SEEK FULLEST POSSIBLE PREPARATION FOR MEETING OF
PRINCIPALS: FIRST, THEY VIEW VISIT OF SECRETARY AS IMPORTANT
EVENT IN ITSELF, AND WISH THE ENCOUNTER TO HAVE SIGNIFICANCE IN
ITS OWN RIGHT; SECONDLY, GOA BELIEVES SECRETARY IS KEY TO NEW DIALOGUE

AND BELIEVE ARGENTINA'S HOPES FOR A SUCCESSFUL MFM IN BUENOS AIRES
CAN OLY BE ACHIEVED WITH HIS COOPERATION.

6. IN VIEW OF ABOVE, EMBASSY HAS ASKED FOR LIST OF TOPICS GOA
WISHES TO TABLE AT WORKING GROUP MEETINGS WITH UNDERSTANDING
DEPARTMENT RESERVES RIGHT TO PROPOSE ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS
TO GOA PROPOSALS.
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